SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) Yes, expect in respect of the following cadres of Revenue Department :—

1. Deputy Tahsildar.

2. I Grade Revenue Inspectors/First Division Clerks of Mysore and Bangalore Division.

(*b*) The delay in finalisation of the pending Inter-State Seniority lists is due to observance of the necessary formalities and the decisions in several Writ petitions

(*c*) The pending Lists are proposed to be finalised by 31st March 1973.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE :

Re : Firing at Reeranwadi and Khadarwadi villages in Belgaum District

MADAM SPEAKER : Now we shall take up the next item. Call attention notice by hon. Member Sri Sayanak.

SRI P. A. PAWASHE (Uchagoor):— Madam Speaker, I would like to make a representation with regard to this call attention notice. The notice was given by Mr. Sayanak and myself. But my name is not included and even a copy of the statement has not been supplied to me.

MADAM SPEAKER :— A copy of the statement will be sent to the hon.-member. He can also seek clarifications

SRI B. B. SAYANAK (Belgaum):— I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to the field firing at Peeranwadi and Khadarwadi villages in Belgaum District.

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA (Minister for Revenue) :—

as follows :—

The village of Peeranwadi and Khadarwadi represented the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum on 15-11-1972 about loss of grass due to Field Firing by the military authorities. The Deputy Commissioner caused an enquiry to be made by the Tahsildar, Balgaum in the village Peeranwadi and this enquiry has disclosed that firing practice opera-

(SRI HUCHAMASTY GOWDA)

tions were carried out by the Military people in the first fortnight of November, 1972 for the first time in a hillock near Peeranwadi taluk : Belgaum. There are malki lands in hillock bearing S.Nos. 4/2 measuring 43 acres and 3 guntas ond S.No. 4/3 measuring 50 acres and 12 guntas of Jaitanamal a deserted village now amalgamated in Peeranwadi village. The land bearing R. S. No. 4/2 is malki land standing in the joint names of 5 persons of Khadarwadi and the land bearing S. No. 4/3 stands in the joint names of 28 persons of Peeranwadi. These lands are used purely for the purpose of raising grass every year, which is used by the agriculturists as fodder for their cattle for all the year round. The grasing grows is of good quality and its height is about 3 feet. The normal season for cutting, storing and removing the grass from the fields is from November to January every year. The average yield of grass per acre is about 4 cart loads and the present market value of grass per cart load is between Rs. 40/- to Rs. 60/-.

On or about the 31st October, 1972 it is stated that some military officers visited the village and informed the Chairman of V.P.C. Peeranwadi that the military people would be carrying on firing practice operations from the 7th November 1972 onwards, in the Jaitanmal hillock and that the villagers should be asked to cut and remove the grass in all the lands round-about as there is every likelihood of the grass being burnt due to firing operations, etc. It is stated that the Chairman, V. P. C. Peeranwadi told the Military Officers that it was highly impossible to cut and remove the grass within such a short period that the grass would be cut and removed by the end of January 1973 and as such it was not proper to carry out firing practice in November, 1972 or December 1972 and that the practice may be postponed to a date after January, 1972. The Military Officers insisted, in spite of the request of the Chairman, V.P.C. to post-poned the firing operations that the grass must be cut at any cost by 7-11-1972.

Thereafter on 7th and 9th November, 1972 firing practice operations were carried out by the Military people in the above lands as a result of which it is stated by the villagers that the grass in an area of about 70 acres was burnt to ashes.

When the Chairman, V.P.C., Peeranwadi approached the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum on 15-11-1972 the Deputy Commissioner personally contacted the Military authorities on phone and requested the Military authorities to postpone the firing practice for 15 days. They assured all help to the villagers to cut and remove the grass. The total loss mentioned is stated to be Rs. 6,000/—. The total quantity of grass burnt would therefore, work-out to 100 cart loads.

The Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum has approached the Military authorities to consider the request of the villagers for compensation. On receipt of reply from Military Authorities necessary action will be taken.

The Military Authorities have not taken prior permission for filed firing and the area not been notified for the purpose.

2-00 P.M.

SRI B. B. SAYANAK.—There is scarcity of fodder and there is no notification from the Government. In view of this, why did the military authorities approach the Village Panchayat, Peeranwadi and insist that they must cut the grass?

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA.—The reason is best known to the military authorities. But the point is that the Government had to notify in the Gazette and inform the villages about the activities that would be taken up by the Military and Revenue Officers. Unfortunately that has not been done.

SRI B. B. SAYANAK.—In the last week the military personnel have used missile in Mandol village also and burnt hundred cart loads of grass.

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA.—That has not been brought to my notice.

SRI P. A. PAWASHE.—Is Government aware that 1,000 carts of grass have been affected by this firing and that if this firing is done during the months of October-November-December irrepairable loss his likely to be caused to the residents of those villages. If so, what action is Government going to take to prevent this?

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA.—I have already stated that it had to be notified in the Gazette but unfortunately that has not been done. We will have to contact the military authorities and know why this has been done without notifying in the Gazette Then we will come to know their point of view and see what best could be done under the circumstances.

SRI B. B. SAYANAK —May I know whether the Government is willing to compensate the agriculturists immediately?

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA.—We have already contacted the military authorities. The damage has to be assessed by the officers of the Military and of the Revenue together. This we have brought to the notice of the military authorities.

SRI P. A. PAWASHE.—Is Government aware that damage is caused to more than 500 cart loads of grass?

SRI N. HUTCHMASTY GOWDA.—As per the information I have, it is only 100 cart loads.